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Illicit drug traffic and supply: follow-up to the twentieth special session: Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development

Follow-up to the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development

Report of the Executive Director

I. Background

1. The General Assembly, at its seventeenth special session, adopted a Political Declaration (resolution S-20/2, annex) and resolutions on several related matters, including the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development (resolution S-20/4 E). By its resolution S-20/3 on international cooperation against the world drug problem, the Assembly requested the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the follow-up to the Action Plan. The report was submitted to the Commission at its forty-second session as document E/CN.7/1999/3. In its resolution S-20/2, the Assembly again requested the Executive Director of UNDCP to report to the Commission, at its forty-third session, on the follow-up to the Action Plan. The present report of the Executive Director, which covers developments since 1999, is contained in the present document.

II. Follow-up to the Action Plan by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme

A. Global level

2. As a direct follow-up to the Action Plan, UNDCP developed a four-year global programme for alternative development, entitled "A Sustainable Livelihoods Approach". The main aim of the global programme is to develop and disseminate lessons learned and best practices among those who make use of alternative

* E/CN.7/2000/1.

development projects carried out by UNDCP around the world, and to improve the analysis and dissemination of project results. A technical repository of that nature will in future prove invaluable to Governments and UNDCP in the design of new programmes and projects, the identification of project indicators and benchmarks and the development of training programmes, evaluation missions and publicity material for substantive advocacy and fund-raising.

3. In April 1999, the global programme started to monitor and track the progress made in areas such as gender mainstreaming in rural development, credit schemes in illicit crop areas, development of agro-industries, income diversification, the role of community organizations, sound project monitoring and management at local and national levels. From October 1998 to January 2000, an assessment of gender mainstreaming activities in alternative development was carried out. The result of the assessment is contained in a UNDCP document entitled "Guidelines on best practices for gender mainstreaming in alternative development". The guidelines were finalized at a workshop of experts and constitute a practical review of existing knowledge and experiences on the gender situation in geographic areas affected by illicit cultivation of narcotic crops. The guidelines will be used, in the first instance, for training purposes and for project development exercises.

4. Another major development during the period under review was the setting up of an illicit crops monitoring programme in response to the Action Plan and to Commission resolution 42/3 entitled "Monitoring and verification of illicit cultivation".

5. The illicit crops monitoring programme currently focuses its work on the six countries in which the bulk of world illicit crop cultivation occurs, namely, Afghanistan, Bolivia, Colombia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Peru. Under a partnership arrangement with the European Space Agency, UNDCP carried out several assessment and programming missions from June to October 1999 to the six priority countries to identify their technical assistance needs for the establishment of national monitoring mechanisms. UNDCP also elaborated, with relevant partners, a common methodology related to the monitoring of illicit crops, bringing into play a combination of applied technologies, such as satellite imagery, ground surveys and aerial surveys. The results of the missions conducted in the six priority countries and the implementation of the common methodology are under constant review by a panel of internationally recognized experts in the field of remote sensing and monitoring. The first panel of experts met at UNDCP headquarters from 13 to 17 December 1999.

6. UNDCP has drawn up six national projects, one for each priority country. Some of the projects are under way, while others are subject to the availability of funding. The illicit crops monitoring programme has assisted in several new initiatives, including the following: a national ground survey in Afghanistan, using satellite imagery in four pilot districts to improve the quality of traditional surveys; a national survey in Colombia using satellite imagery; and a national ground survey in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, including preparatory work for remote sensing. Technical advice was offered to Bolivia to develop a national system to monitor illicit cultivation in Chapare and the Yungas region. In Peru, advice was provided to complement the existing national aerial survey capacities with satellite images. In Myanmar, preparatory work started on the use of satellite imagery in the UNDCP alternative development project area as a first step towards eventual national coverage.

7. The national systems being promoted are expected to contribute significantly to the establishment and reinforcement of an international network for the monitoring of illicit crops, in line with Commission resolution 42/3. Equally important, the systems will become an essential tool for planning, monitoring and evaluating the results of alternative development projects funded by Governments, UNDCP and other donors.

B. Regional and national level

8. In Pakistan, UNDCP is continuing its alternative development activities in the Dir district of the North-West Frontier Province. Following successful eradication efforts by the Government of Pakistan, only 0.1 hectares of illicit poppy were harvested in the Dir district in 1999. Accordingly, the large-scale operations of the second phase of the UNDCP Dir district development project, under way since 1994, has been slowly scaled down and will soon proceed to its completion. In order to capitalize on the elimination of the opium poppy crop, planning has begun for a 3- to 10-year consolidation programme, involving bilateral and multilateral assistance.

9. In Afghanistan, the UNDCP alternative development pilot project continues to be implemented in four target districts of Nangarhar and Qandahar provinces. The

14. During September and October 1998, the Governments of Bolivia, Colombia and Peru prepared three individual business plans for the elimination of illicit drug crops through alternative development. The objectives and overarching principles of the three business plans were presented to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its forty-second session, in document E/CN.7/1999/3.

15. The three business plans comprise 16 projects at an aggregate cost of $170.2 million, including three projects in Bolivia ($64.2 million), seven projects in Colombia ($60 million) and eight projects in Peru ($46 million). All projects are grounded in the national alternative development plans of the respective countries, and are for execution during the period 1998-2003. Nearly 20 per cent, or $31 million, has been raised so far for the business plans, and this has enabled UNDCP to start 12 of the 16 projects. Fund-raising efforts are under way to identify donors for the remaining $139 million needed for full execution of the business plans by 2003.

16. During the period under review, the agroforestry programme in Bolivia was enlarged from a $1 million budget in 1998 to a total budget of $9.2 million, including a $1.2 million cost-sharing contribution from the Government of Bolivia. Part of the new funding will deal with illicit coca cultivation in the Yungas, a region where restricted coca cultivation for traditional purposes is permitted by Bolivian law but which is increasingly being used also for illicit cultivation. The agroforestry programme works directly with over 3,500 beneficiaries, organized as shareholders in forest management units and supports the processing and marketing of forestry products, including timber and such crops such as palm hearts, mangos, passion fruit, rubber and bananas. Farmers are already deriving $1,400 per year in regular income under the project. Equally important, the programme assists local and national authorities with the establishment of land governance, degraded by coca cultivation, and supports environmental protection legislation and the introduction of land zoning, forest, park management practices and the promotion of conservation. An external and independent project evaluation carried out in June 1998 confirmed that the project approach has led to a reduction of 1,500 hectares of coca cultivation in the area.

17. A second business plan project started with a preparatory assistance phase to introduce vocational training and microenterprises for about 7,000 young people in the Chapare region of Bolivia. The project assesses the training needs and existing vocational training capacities as well as the absorption capacity of the labour market in areas affected by illicit cultivation of the coca bush. The third business plan project, started in September 1998, introduced an integrated system of national planning, management and monitoring for alternative development. The project also promotes better coordination of domestic and external resources.

18. Under the Peruvian business plan, UNDCP commitments rose from $4.2 million in early 1999 to currently $7.6 million, covering four major coca-growing areas. The three new projects in the Lower Huallaga, the Pichis-Palcazu valleys (known as the Selva Central) and the Inambari and Tambopata valleys (known as the Puno Selva) build substantially on the experience of the ongoing project in the Aguaytia valley, in particular with regard to improvements in traditional crops such as coffee and cacao, and in business-oriented management practices for agro-industrial enterprises, including the production of palm oil and plant fuels. In the Selva Central, UNDCP also supports improved cattle breeding. Two radio and phone and rural infrastructure, including feeder roads, were rehabilitated under the project.

19. For the first time, the Government of Peru contributed cost-sharing of $6.6 million to UNDCP projects. Project formulations were carried out for business plan projects in Pichis-Palcazu, Santa Rosa and in the Monzon-Uoper Mayo area, and project activities got ready to start subject to funding. Under the three business plan projects, UNDCP is upgrading the economic, managerial and marketing capacities of the various rural farmers' cooperatives to enhance the local supply chain of products in Oxapampa (VRAE/AMBO/ENE) as well as the capacity of the Government to undertake research for the management of illicit crops.

20. Just assisting UNDCP commenced to assist the efforts of the National Alternative Development Project in the Inambari, Tambopata and Inambari Valleys. With the formulation of projects for coca-growing communities in the Aguaytia development, Campanas was placed on financing for the projects for integrated and the economic and marketing development plans. The project also provided seven projects in four Peruvian provinces in the Aguaytia, Pichis-Palcazu, Inambari and Tambopata valleys. UNDCP continued to support agricultural extension services, reaching 2,500 farm families in the departments of Bolivia, Cajamarca, Cuzco, Huanuco, Meta, Nariño and Putumayo. In the second half of 1998, a national business plans project, "Alternative

development for Meta-Caguan", started to provide assistance to farmers in the cultivation of legal crops and cattle-breeding.

21. UNDCP also supported the Government in the formulation of four additional business plan projects worth $30 million for about 5,000 farm families in areas of coca and opium poppy cultivation. The pace of work in Colombia is directly dependent on progress made by the Government in addressing the armed conflict in the country.

22. In Colombia and Peru, UNDCP assists Governments with the establishment of national systems for monitoring illicit drug crops. These systems will not only allow crop measurement, but also provide data on eradication efforts in Colombia and on progress in alternative development in both countries. In Peru, the first phase of the coca monitoring project is in full operation, with the aim of producing detailed maps of 11 coca-growing areas based on a combined interpretation of air photographs, satellite images and ground surveys. The aerial survey has been concluded for six coca-growing areas. In Colombia, the monitoring project started in September 1999. It is designed as a bridging project that prolongs the Colombian pilot phase of a UNDCP satellite survey in Guaviare and parts of Caquet and Putumayo and that will be linked to a future land-use mapping project to be funded by the European Commission. Both the Colombian and Peruvian projects will link the UNDCP integrated crop monitoring programme.